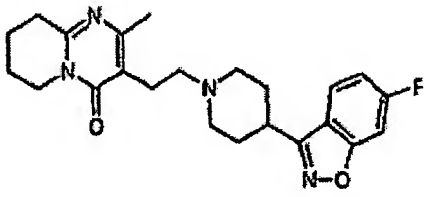
IN THE CLAIMS

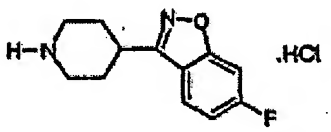
Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of risperidone of Formula 1:

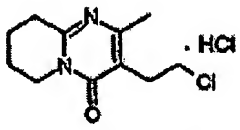


Formula -1

Which process comprises reacting ~~at a temperature from 25°C to 90°C, in a condensation reaction~~ 6-fluoro-3-(4-piperindinyl)-1,2-benzisoxazole monohydrochloride of Formula-2 with 3-(2-chlorethyl)-6, 7, 8, 9-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4H-pyrido[1,2,a]pyrimidin-4-one monohydrochloride of Formula -3:



Formula- 2. HCl



Formula - 3. HCl

at a temperature from 25°C to 90°C, in a condensation reaction in the presence of a base after completion of the condensation reaction, diluting the condensation reaction mass with ice-cold water to precipitate risperidone;

filtering and drying the precipitated risperidone to obtain crude risperidone; and

crystallizing the crude resperidone in an aqueous solvent to produce risperidone.

2 (cancelled)

3 (currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the condensation reaction is carried out ~~in the presence of a base (condensing agent),~~ in a solvent medium of water, one or more water-miscible solvents or a mixture of water and one or more water-miscible solvents, and the process comprises:

~~a) carrying out the condensation reaction at a temperature in the range from 25°C to 90°C;~~

a) after completion of the condensation reaction, cooling the reaction mass ~~is cooled~~ to room temperature and diluting the condensation reaction mass with water to precipitate risperidone;

b) extracting the precipitated risperidone of step [(b)] (a) with a water-immiscible solvent;

~~d) optionally purifying the water-immiscible solvent to by extraction with aqueous acid followed by extraction with a water-immiscible solvent;~~

c) concentrating the extract resulting from step (c) ~~or optional step (d)~~ under reduced pressure to produce crude risperidone; and

d) crystallizing the crude risperidone in an aqueous solvent to produce ~~pure~~ risperidone.

4. (previously amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the condensation reaction is carried out in a mixture of water and one or more water-miscible solvents.

5. (previously amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the condensation reaction is carried out in water as the only solvent.

6. (currently amended) A process according to claim [2] 3, wherein the water-miscible solvent is selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, acetone, acetonitrile, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, and mixtures thereof.

7. (previously amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the condensation reaction is carried out at a temperature in the range from 40 to 90°.

8. (currently amended) A process according to claim [2] 1, wherein the base ~~(condensing agent)~~ is selected from sodium or potassium carbonate, sodium or potassium bicarbonate, and sodium or potassium hydroxide.

9. (previously amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the base ~~(condensing agent)~~ is sodium carbonate.

10. (previously amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the water-immiscible solvent is selected from dichloromethane, dichloroethane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, toluene, benzene, and mixtures thereof.

11. (original) A process according to claim 10, wherein the water-immiscible solvent is dichloromethane.

12. (previously amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the water-immiscible solvent extract is extracted with 10-15% aqueous acid.

13. (previously amended) A process according to claim 12, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, tartaric acid and acetic acid.

14. (currently amended) A process according to claim ~~14~~ 13, wherein the ~~pH of the aqueous acidic extract is adjusted to basic with ammonia and is further extracted into dichloromethane.~~ acid is hydrochloric acid.

15. (original) A process according to claim 14, wherein the pH of the aqueous acidic extract is adjusted to basic with ammonia and is further extracted into dichloromethane.

16. (previously amended) A process according to claim 1 , wherein the crude risperidone is crystallized in an aqueous solvent selected from aqueous acetone, aqueous methyl ethyl ketone, aqueous methyl isobutyl ketone, aqueous acetonitrile and aqueous dimethylformamide, to produce risperidone.

17. (original) A process according to claim 16, wherein the aqueous solvent is aqueous acetone.

18. (previously amended) A processing according to claim 1, wherein the 3-(2-chlorethyl)-6, 7, 8, 9-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4H-pyrido[1,2,a]pyrimidin-4-one monohydrochloride of Formula -3 is prepared starting from 3-(2-chlorethyl)-2-methyl-4H-pyrido[1,2a]pyrimidin-4-one.

19. (original) A process according to claim 18, wherein the 3-(2-chlorethyl)-2-methyl-4H-pyrido[1,2a]pyrimidin-4-one is hydrogenated in the presence of a metal catalyst and hydrogen pressure.

20. (original) A process according to claim 19, wherein the metal catalyst is Raney nickel.

21. (original) A process according to claim 20, wherein the hydrogen pressure is 70-80 psi.

22. (previously amended) A process according to claim 21, wherein the hydrogenation reaction temperature is 28-35 ° C.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) A process for preparing crystalline risperidone comprising crystallizing the condensed product obtained by reacting 6-fluoro-3-(4-piperindinyl)-1,2-benzisoxazole monohydrochloride with 3-(2-chlorethyl)-6, 7, 8, 9-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4H-pyrido[1,2,a]pyrimidin-4-one monohydrochloride or crude risperidone in an aqueous organic solvent.

25. (previously presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the aqueous organic solvent is selected from aqueous acetone, aqueous methyl isobutyl ketone or mixtures thereof.